**NOVEMBER 2018 – BEGINNING OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

Welcome back to what is proving to be a sunny yet very cold second part of the Autumn Term! This term always promises to be one of excitement and creativity! Please continue to look at the eSchool pages to see what your child has been doing in class. Additionally, please stay up to date by looking at the school website calendar.

**Harvest Festival Donations**

Chepstow Foodbank would like to pass on their sincere thanks to all at Tutshill School for the recent Harvest Festival donations of 150.3kg of food to help support the work of the foodbank. These donations will enable them to provide 18 people with enough food for three days. Thank you for your generosity.

**PTA Update**

The PTA has had a great start to the year.  Karin and Jane warmly welcome Mrs Howells, Michelle, Olivia, Tammy, Nadine, Liz and Anne-Marie onto the team. We would like to thank Danielle for all of her efforts - she is standing down due to other work and study commitments and we wish her all the best.

We will be running new events over the next year plus some of the old favourites.  Upcoming events:

* School Disco will be on **Wednesday 14 November** - the KS1 disco will be from 5.30pm until 6.20pm and the KS2 disco will be from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Look out for our posters soon!
* Christmas Fayre will be on **Friday 7th December** - more information to follow.

Last year, the PTA raised around a whopping £6000 for the school, which was spent on the new gazebos, the gardening club, theatre visits, water bottles and book bags for Reception children and other great things.

The PTA has an 'Easyfundraising' account, which rose just over £80 last year.  Easyfundraising donates small sums of money for every purchase you make, with a minimum of effort. Even your weekly on-line shop can raise money for the school. As a bonus, they will notify you of promotions such as M&S school uniform discounts and holiday offers (although you can switch these off if you’re plagued by such emails!).

[You shop. Your cause gets money. For free.](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) We also have an account with 'stamptastic' - school kit naming equipment and other useful stuff:
Your PTA Code: **NP167BJ**

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<https://stamptastic.co.uk/pages/school-welcome#a_aid=5ab911fde58d4>

Your Affiliate ID: **5ab911fde58d4**

Like Easyfundraising, purchases you make earn money for the school.

**Coming up…**

**Bonfire Night Menu – Change to Lunch Choices**

The kitchen will be having a Bonfire Night themed menu on **Monday 5 November**. The meal choices available will be:

Bangers and Mash with Baked Beans **OR**

Cheese and Pepper Catherine Wheels **OR**

Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans

**Parental Consultations – Week commencing Monday 5 November 2018**

Parental Consultations are taking place next week. If you have an appointment during the day please come to the School Office, where you will be directed to the designated room to meet the teacher. Should you be unable to make the appointment, please ensure you notify the teacher or School Office. The teachers need to keep to the timings of the appointments, however, should you feel that you need more time following the parental consultations, please do not hesitate to arrange a meeting where more time can be offered. At the end of your meeting you will be given a Data Collection Sheet detailing the contact information we hold on file for you. Please ensure you return the form to school with any updated information.

**Poppy Appeal**

Poppies will be on sale daily from **Monday 5 November** with members of the School Council taking them around to each class. As well as poppies, we also have erasers, reflectors, pencil sharpeners, rulers and pencils. The suggested donation range for these items are £0.50-£1.00.

**Remembrance Service**

Remembrance Service is **Friday 9 November** at 9.15am. The service will be held at St Luke’s Church. Families are welcome to join us for a minutes silence within the service.  Beavers, Brownies, Scouts and Guides can wear their uniform on this day.

The Parish of Tidenham invite you to join them for a community act of remembrance on **Sunday 11 November** at Tutshill Recreation Ground at 10.45am. There is an optional procession leaving St Luke’s Church at 10.25am. A marquee will be provided and some seating but please feel free to bring your own chair. The service will be followed by refreshments at Tidenham War Memorial Hall.

**School Council**

Our School Council have voted and chosen to organise a breakdancing workshop for the whole school on **Friday 9 November**. A breakdancing artist will be coming into school to lead workshops with all children from Reception to Year Six. This promises to be a very exciting day!

**Y3 and Y4 Trip to Dean Heritage Centre**

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will be visiting Dean Heritage Centre on **Tuesday 13 November 2018**. They will be participating in an Iron Age Workshop which will complement the topic they will be studying next term.

**Children in Need**

For Children in Need, this year, we have decided to go a little 'arty' here at Tutshill School. On **Friday 16 November**, your child is invited to come to school dressed as a famous artist or a character from a famous painting- be as creative as you wish! During the week, the children will all have created a self-portrait and you will be invited into school to view these original works of art and have the opportunity to purchase them at a cost of £3. They will either be on canvas or framed.  Further details of when the art will be showcased will follow. We can't wait to see the costumes and the wonderful art works!

**Christmas Lunch Date**

This year’s Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 12 December**. Please look out for the special lunch menu which will be sent out shortly.

**Christmas Service and Carols**

The carol service will be held **on Friday 21 December** at St Luke’s Church at 9.30am. Parents are invited to attend.

**Christmas Production Dates**

We would like to give you advance notice of our Christmas Production Dates.

The KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) Production will be on **Wednesday 19 December**. There will be two performances; one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The KS2 (Years 3 – 6) productions will be on **Thursday 20 December**. There will be three performances; one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Further details will follow nearer the time.

**PE KITs**

As the weather is getting colder, we would like to remind you that the children will need full PE kit as some PE lessons will be taught outside no matter what the weather! Please can all children have the following named PE Kit (to be kept in a named drawstring bag):

* Navy T-shirt and navy shorts;
* Navy jogging trousers;
* Navy sports jumper (sweatshirt or hooded top)
* KS1 (Reception, Y1 and Y2) black daps; and KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 and 6) white trainers (no colour/logos/names) or black daps.

If you have any questions, please let us know. We will be checking children’s PE kits over the next couple of weeks and will be contacting those parents whose children do not have the correct items.

**Attendance**

We would like to draw your attention to the revised Attendance Policy that was emailed to parents on the first day of this academic year. A copy of the policy can also be found on the school’s website under the Parents or Documents section. Please could we suggest parents take some time to read the policy and note the changes, such as:

1. Amended register close time
2. Percentage monitoring brackets
3. Absence reporting to the office and potential home and Police welfare checks if failure to notify the school office of absence (eg. illness, medical appointment or holidays).

Should you wish to keep a closer eye on your child’s attendance throughout the year, please log in to your eSchools account or App to do so. On the app you will see there is an attendance bar which will give you a real time percentage of attendance.

**After School Clubs**

As our after school clubs are very popular and places are limited, could we please request that you notify the School Office if your child no longer requires their place. This will allow their place to be offered to the next child on the waiting list. If your child is absent for two consecutive sessions, without notifying the School Office, their place will be withdrawn.

**ParentPay School Meal Accounts**

Please could we request that your child’s school meal account be kept topped up at all times.

**Lost Property**

Please ensure you regularly check lost property for any missing items. This is situated at the back of the school hall, accessible through the door leading from the playground to the school hall. Lost property will only be accessible between the hours of 8.45am-8.55am and again at 3.15pm-3.25pm. After these times, lost property will not be accessible. This will also mean that you do not need to come in to the school through the office to locate lost property.

**Contact Information**

Please ensure you advise the School Office of any changes to your contact details. It is vital that we have your up to date information for all correspondence purposes.

**School Contact Details**

Telephone: 01291 622593

General email: office@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk

Attendance email: attendance@tutshillcofe.gloucs.sch.uk

**School Calendar**

Please be sure to regularly check the school calendar for events. This can be looked at on the school website or the eSchools app.

**Diary Dates – At a Glance**

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| **Nov 2018** | 5 | Open Morning 10.30am – 11.30am |
|  | 9 | Breakdancing Workshop |
|  | 12 | WW1 Commemorative Day  |
|  | 13 | Year 3 and year 4 Trip to Dean Heritage Centre |
|  | 14 | PTA Disco |
|  | **19** | **INSET Day** |
|  | 20 | Flu Vaccinations Rec through to Year 5 |
|  | 21 | M&M Productions – Sleeping Beauty |
|  | 28 | Heights & Weights visit – Reception & Year 6 |
|  | 29 | Year 5 Class Brass Mini Concert |
| **Dec 2018** | 7 | PTA Christmas Fayre |
|  | 12 | Christmas Lunch |
|  | 19 | KS1 Christmas Productions |
|  | 20 | KS2 Christmas Productions  |
|  | 21 | Christmas Service and Carols |
|  | **21** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
| **Jan 2019** | **7** | **Term Starts** |
|  | 22 | Young Voices Choir Trip |
| **Feb 2019** | **15** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
|  | **25** | **Term Starts** |
| **Mar 2019** | 15-20 | Book Fair |
| **Apr 2019** | **5** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
|  | **19** | **Good Friday** |
|  | **22** | **Easter Monday** |
|  | **23** | **Term Starts** |
|  | 23-26 | Bikeability Cycle Training – Year 5 |
| **May 2019** | **3** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **6** | **May Day Bank Holiday** |
|  | **24** | **Term Ends – 3.15pm** |
| **June 2019** | **3** | **INSET Day** |
|  | **4** | **Term Starts** |
| **July 2019** | 10-12 | Year 6 Residential Trip |
|  | **23** | **Term Ends – 1pm** |